

**Selection Statement for the  
NASA Integrated Communications Services (NICS) Acquisition  
RFP NNM10263608R**

On February 7, 2011, I along with other senior officials of NASA Headquarters met with the Source Evaluation Board (SEB) appointed to evaluate proposals in connection with the NASA Integrated Communications Services (NICS) acquisition.

**I. PROCUREMENT HISTORY**

The NICS Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on December 11, 2009. The RFP required the offerors to provide the necessary management, personnel, equipment, and supplies to provide agency-wide telecommunications and infrastructure management services, to include management of the agency's wide area network (WAN) via the NASA Integrated Services Network (NISN) and local area network (LAN) management services at all NASA centers. Specifically, the contractor will provide effort to support the following areas of the Performance Work Statement (PWS):

- a. Contract Management: These services include program management, financial management, logistics, contract phase-in/transition management, procurement, security management, safety, health & environmental management, facilities management, quality assurance and management, I<sup>3</sup>P program integration, other interface points, and contract and subcontract administration.
- b. Enterprise Services: These services include network services, voice services, data services, collaboration services, corporate management and operations, mission services, mission management and operations, customer relationship management, service management, strategy generation, information technology (IT) security support, and GSA contract integration. This includes WAN and LAN communication services at all NASA centers and associated component facilities.
- c. Center and Associated Component Facility Services: These services include center and associated component facility-specific services such as cable plant management, emergency warning system (EWS), public address system, radio, telephone service, voice over internet protocol (VoIP), and cable television (TV).
- d. Infrastructure Projects: This activity includes both the continuation of and new projects and shall include all the effort to perform projects such as Network Communications Initiative (NCI) Continuation Project, NICS Consolidated Configuration Management System, Consolidated Corporate Network Operations Center Project, and other NASA-approved projects. These projects shall be accomplished in accordance with NPR 7120.7, *NASA Information Technology and Institutional Infrastructure Program and Project Management Requirements*.

e. Unique Services: These services include infrastructure (i.e. desktop, LAN management) for Russia IT services, NASA National Security Systems (NSS) service IT support, and digital television (DTV) engineering services.

This effort will be performed under a cost-plus-award-fee/cost-plus-incentive-fee contract, with an indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) component. The potential ten-year contract consists of a three-year base period with one two-year option, one three-year option, and one two-year option period.

Twelve amendments were issued to the RFP. Amendment Nos. 001 through 009 answered questions from industry on the RFP and made corresponding RFP revisions. Amendment Nos. 009 through 012 were released only to the offerors in the competitive range. These amendments provided: (1) a draft copy of the final proposal revision model contract in order to allow the offerors an opportunity to address the proposed changes during discussions; (2) an updated Attachment J-19 Phase-in/Transition Schedule to reflect the updated phase-in and transition dates resulting from the revised contract start date of June 1, 2011; (3) an update to PWS 3.8, NISN Mission Service Request Implementations, to allow for a more realistic staffing profile for these services, and (4) a new Section H clause that included proposed small disadvantaged business (SDB) targets in the contract as well as tracking of progress throughout the life of the NICS contract.

The NICS procurement was conducted as a full and open competition in accordance with FAR Part 15, entitled "Contracting by Negotiation." During March 17-19, 2010, NASA received proposals from the following five companies: Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), InDyne, Inc. (Indyne), L-3 Stratis (L-3), Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), and Unigroup, Multitek, LLC (Unigroup Multitek).

## **II. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

The SEB evaluated proposals in accordance with the procedures prescribed in FAR Part 15 and NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) Part 1815. The SEB evaluated the proposals in two general steps:

Step One – The SEB performed an initial evaluation to determine if each offeror had provided all information required by the solicitation. As a result of this review, the SEB determined that the proposal from Unigroup Multitek was unacceptable in accordance with NFS 1815.305-70. The SSA concurred in this determination on April 26, 2010, and as a result, Unigroup Multitek's proposal was not further evaluated.

Step Two – All proposals remaining after Step One were evaluated against the three evaluation factors contained in the RFP. Based on this evaluation, the Government had the option to either: (1) make selection and award without discussions; or (2) conduct discussions with all offerors in the competitive range and make selection and award based on final proposal revisions (FPRs).

The RFP listed three evaluation factors: Mission Suitability, Cost, and Past Performance. The RFP stated that these three factors were considered essentially equal in importance. Therefore, all evaluation factors other than cost, when combined, are considered significantly more important than cost. Selection and award is in accordance with the best value approach delineated in the RFP. A best value approach seeks to select a proposal based upon the best combination of cost and qualitative effort, which includes Mission Suitability and Past Performance. The evaluation is based upon the premise that, if all proposals are of approximately equal qualitative merit, award will be made to the offeror with the lowest evaluated cost. However, the Government will consider awarding to an offeror with the higher qualitative merit if the difference in cost is commensurate with added value. Conversely, the Government will consider making award to an offeror whose proposal has lower qualitative merit if the cost differential between it and other proposals warrants doing so.

Section M of the RFP described the following three evaluation factors:

Mission Suitability: The proposals were evaluated to determine the offeror's ability to successfully perform the requirements, including management, safety, small business, and technical subfactors, as well as proposal risk. Mission Suitability consisted of four (4) subfactors, and each subfactor received both an adjectival rating and a numerical score as follows:

A. Management/Operations and Staffing Approach	425 points
B. Safety, Health, and Environmental (SHE) Approach	50 points
C. Small Business Utilization	100 points
D. Technical Approach	<u>425 points</u>
	1,000 points

Overall, each proposal could receive a maximum of 1000 points. The applicable adjectival ratings for each subfactor were "Excellent," "Very Good," "Good," "Fair," and "Poor" as set forth and described in NFS 1815.305(a)(3)(A) (as referenced in Section M of the RFP). In accordance with NFS 1815.304-70(b)(1), the SEB did not assign an overall adjectival rating to proposals under the Mission Suitability factor.

Cost: The proposed costs and resources were evaluated for reasonableness and cost realism, for the base period and all option periods, in accordance with FAR 15.305(a)(1) and NFS 1815.305(a)(1)(B), in order to determine the offeror's understanding of the contract. The offeror's proposed cost for the contract was calculated as the sum of the core mission cost for the contract period of performance, including all options, and a Government-calculated IDIQ value using offeror-provided, fully-burdened, blended rates applied to a Government model of labor hours. Adjustments were made to the proposed costs in order to assess the probable cost of doing business with each offeror. Also, in accordance with the RFP, proposed costs were adjusted to the proposed G&A ceiling rates. A cost confidence determination was then made for the

probable cost assessment for each proposal. Cost confidence was expressed as a "High," "Medium," or "Low" rating.

Past Performance: The overall corporate past performance of the offeror and any major subcontractors or teaming partners was evaluated. Relevant past performance was defined as the accomplishment of work that was comparable in types of services, size, complexity, and contract type. Greater emphasis was given for effort similar to that of NICS, particularly efforts such as transition/transformation of multiple networks or IT service consolidation across disparate geographic locations and provision of services requiring integration with multiple service providers. Past Performance was not numerically scored; however, a confidence rating was assigned. The applicable adjectival ratings were "Very High Level of Confidence," "High Level of Confidence," "Moderate Level of Confidence," "Low Level of Confidence," "Very Low Level of Confidence," and "Neutral" as set forth and described in Section M of the solicitation (i.e., NFS 1815.305(a)(2)(A)).

The SEB presented its initial findings to me, the SSA, on September 29, 2010. Based on these findings, I determined that award on initial proposals was not appropriate, and on October 12, 2010, I concurred in the contracting officer's establishment of a competitive range of the most highly rated proposals. Included in the competitive range were proposals from CSC, L-3, and SAIC. InDyne was not included in the competitive range because its proposal was not among the most highly rated. InDyne received a debriefing on November 2, 2010.

By letters dated October 19, 2010, the three firms in the competitive range were notified and provided with their respective weaknesses and clarifications identified during the evaluation of their proposals. The due date for all written responses was November 1, 2010. Oral, written, and telephonic discussions were held with the offerors during November 15-21, 2010.

On December 3, 2010, a letter requesting final proposal revisions (FPRs) was sent to the offerors with a due date of December 20, 2010. Subsequently, three timely FPRs were received and the SEB evaluated these proposals consistent with the criteria identified in the RFP.

As a result of the discussion process and the FPRs, all three offerors increased their Mission Suitability scores. The Past Performance adjectival rating for all three offerors did not change. In addition, all three offerors revised their cost proposals based upon discussions. The final evaluation results of the FPRs are summarized below.

<b>Offeror</b>	<b>Mission Suitability</b>	<b>Past Performance</b>	<b>Cost Confidence</b>
<b>CSC</b>	867	Very High	High
<b>L-3</b>	798	Very High	High
<b>SAIC</b>	958	Very High	High

### **CSC**

**Under the Mission Suitability factor,** CSC's proposal received an overall score of 867. Across the four subfactors, the proposal had 17 significant strengths, 41 strengths, no significant weaknesses, and no weaknesses.

Under the Management/Operations & Staffing Approach subfactor, CSC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Very Good." The proposal received 11 significant strengths and 22 strengths. The significant strengths related to (1) the management approach that demonstrates a clear understanding of and strong commitment to Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) processes and training, (2) the phase-in methodology, (3) the approach for risk management, and (4) eight key personnel positions. These significant strengths foster a strong likelihood that the NICS services can be performed in an ITIL environment, significantly increase the likelihood of effective communication during phase-in, and greatly increase the likelihood of successful NICS contract management.

Under the Safety, Health, and Environmental (SHE) Approach subfactor, CSC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent." The proposal received one significant strength and one strength. The significant strength related to the comprehensive SHE Plan that was of exceptional merit and extremely thorough in addressing all core program requirements. This initiative greatly enhances the likelihood that contract requirements will be performed safely.

Under the Small Business Utilization subfactor, CSC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent." The proposal received two significant strengths and three strengths. The significant strengths related to (1) an exceptional level of commitment to utilize small business concerns and to support their development and (2) an exceptional management commitment to utilizing small business and small disadvantaged business (SDB) concerns as subcontractors in high technology areas and high quality areas and integrating the subcontracted work into the total effort. These features demonstrate a strong commitment to using small businesses and SDBs during contract performance and significantly increase the likelihood that the proposed small business subcontracting goals will be achieved.

Under the Technical Approach subfactor, CSC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Very Good." The proposal received three significant strengths and 15 strengths. The three significant strengths related to (1) the proposed approach to

accomplishing corporate service sustainment and engineering in a distributed, multi-center environment, (2) the comprehensive, detailed approach for providing PWS 4.0, Center and Associated Component Facility Services, which demonstrates a clear understanding of the services to be delivered, and (3) the approach for Scenario 1, "Approach for Corporate and Mission Network Management Operations Backup," and Scenario 2, "Approach for Corporate and Mission Network Consolidation," which demonstrates a thorough understanding of both corporate and mission services. These initiatives significantly improve service delivery, reduce the risk of service impacts, and indicate a clear understanding of the nuances of delivery of services in NASA's multi-center environment.

**Under the Past Performance factor,** CSC's proposal received a "Very High Level of Confidence." The proposal received two significant strengths, 12 strengths, no significant weaknesses, and no weaknesses. The significant strengths related to (1) performance of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Information Technology Services (ITS) contract, and (2) performance of the Motorola Information Technology Services contract. Based upon CSC's performance record, there is a very high level of confidence that CSC will successfully perform the NICS effort.

**Under the Cost factor,** CSC's probable cost was the highest of the three proposals. Adjustments to the proposed cost were necessary, and the SEB determined the proposed cost was reasonable, complete, and ensured that all PWS requirements were reflected in the cost. After completing the probable cost adjustment, the SEB assigned CSC's proposal a "High" cost confidence rating since the vast majority of the adjustments were considered minor. Based on this rating, the Government has a very high level of confidence that the probable cost correlates very closely to the actual costs that CSC would incur to successfully implement its proposal.

### **L-3**

**Under the Mission Suitability factor,** L-3's proposal received an overall score of 798. Across the four subfactors, the proposal had 16 significant strengths and 36 strengths, no significant weaknesses, and no weaknesses.

**Under the Management/Operations & Staffing Approach subfactor,** L-3's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Very Good." The proposal received 10 significant strengths and 21 strengths. The significant strengths related to (1) the comprehensive approach for Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) v3 transformation, (2) the approach to provide a comprehensive and integrated set of financial and business management processes and tools, (3) the approach to address phase-in as a project with a dedicated project team and in a defined framework, and (4) seven key personnel positions. These attributes greatly facilitate ITIL v3 transformation; greatly increase the timeliness, accuracy, and usability of cost data for NASA financial reporting; substantially increase the likelihood of successful contract start; and significantly increase the likelihood of successful delivery of all NICS services.

Under the Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Approach subfactor, L-3's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent." L-3 received one significant strength and one strength. The significant strength related to the comprehensive SHE Plan that was of exceptional merit and extremely thorough in addressing all core program requirements. This initiative greatly increases the likelihood that contract requirements will be performed safely.

Under the Small Business Utilization subfactor, L-3's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent." The proposal received three significant strengths and three strengths. The significant strengths related to (1) the proposed subcontracting percentage goals significantly exceeding the recommended subcontracting percentage goals and the strong and logical rationale that was provided to substantiate the proposed goals in the small business subcontracting plan, (2) an exceptional level of commitment to support the development of small business and small disadvantaged business (SDB) concerns, and (3) an exceptional management commitment to utilizing small business and SDBs as subcontractors in high technology areas and high quality areas and integrating the subcontracted work into the total effort. These features demonstrate a strong managerial commitment to utilizing small businesses of all categories, help small businesses make meaningful contributions to the success of the NICS mission, and significantly increase the likelihood that the proposed subcontracting goals and SDB targets will be achieved.

Under the Technical Approach subfactor, L-3's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Very Good." The proposal received two significant strengths and 11 strengths. The significant strengths related to (1) the approach for PWS 3.9, Customer Relationship Management, and (2) the demonstrated excellent understanding of NPR 7120.7 project planning principles, as described in the project plans under PWS 5.0, Infrastructure Projects. These features significantly increase the likelihood of center satisfaction with NICS service delivery and also significantly increase the likelihood of successful project performance.

**Under the Past Performance factor**, L-3's proposal received a "Very High Level of Confidence." The proposal received one significant strength, eight strengths, no significant weaknesses, and no weaknesses. The significant strength related to L-3's performance of the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Enterprise Information Technology Contract (EITC). Based upon L-3's performance record, there is a very high level of confidence that L-3 will successfully perform the NICS effort.

**Under the Cost factor**, L-3's probable cost was the second highest of the three proposals. Cost adjustments were necessary, and the SEB determined the proposed cost was reasonable, complete, and ensured that all PWS requirements were reflected in the cost. After completing the probable cost adjustment, the SEB assigned L-3 a "High" cost confidence rating since the vast majority of the total adjustments were considered minor. Based on this rating, the Government has a very high level of confidence that the probable cost correlates very closely to the actual costs that L-3 would incur to successfully implement its proposal.

## **SAIC**

**Under the Mission Suitability factor**, SAIC's proposal received an overall score of 958 points. Across the four subfactors, SAIC had 25 significant strengths, 44 strengths, no significant weaknesses, and no weaknesses.

**Under the Management/Operations & Staffing Approach subfactor**, SAIC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent." The proposal received 16 significant strengths and 24 strengths. The significant strengths related to (1) the management approach and supporting organizational structure, (2) the comprehensive phase-in framework, (3) the comprehensive transition approach, (4) the comprehensive approach to planning, scheduling, processing, controlling, and completing requirements for I3P integration and other contractor interfaces, (5) providing Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) v3 Foundations training early in the contract performance period for all personnel supporting NICS, (6) the risk management implementation approach, (7) the proposed NICS Asset Life Cycle framework, (8) the approach for information management processes and tools for contract, financial, technical, and procurement management activities, and (9) eight key personnel positions. These attributes significantly increase the likelihood of successful delivery of enterprise services and accomplishment of I3P transformational goals; increase the likelihood of a successful transition; demonstrate a strong commitment to ITIL transformation which will lead to a seamless transition to ITIL v3 service delivery; greatly increase the likelihood of achieving the transformational goals of a integrated communications infrastructure while balancing the needs of the individual centers; enable risks to be identified and properly mitigated; and ensure proper handling of all logistics services on NICS.

**Under the Safety, Health, and Environmental (SHE) Approach factor**, SAIC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent." The proposal received one significant strength and one strength. The significant strength related to the comprehensive SHE Plan that was of exceptional merit and extremely thorough in addressing all core program requirements. This initiative greatly increases the likelihood that contract requirements will be performed safely.

**Under the Small Business Utilization subfactor**, SAIC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent." The proposal received two significant strengths and three strengths. The significant strengths related to (1) the proposed subcontracting percentage goals significantly exceeding the recommended subcontracting percentage goals, with the overall small business goal exceeding the recommended goal in this category, and the strong and logical rationale that was provided to substantiate the proposed goals and (2) an exceptional level of commitment to support the development of small business and small disadvantaged business (SDB) concerns. This approach demonstrates a strong managerial commitment to using small businesses, enables small businesses to meaningfully contribute to the success of the NICS mission, and ensures that the proposed subcontracting goals and SDB targets will be achieved.



Under the Technical Approach subfactor, SAIC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent." The proposal received six significant strengths and 16 strengths. The significant strengths related to (1) the comprehensive set of approaches, methods, processes, and tools for the delivery of corporate service sustainment and engineering functions defined in PWS sections 3.1 through 3.5, (2) the approach for PWS 3.9, Customer Relationship Management, (3) the demonstrated excellent understanding of NPR 7120.7 project planning principles, as described in the project plans under PWS 5.0, Infrastructure Projects, (4) the approach for Scenario 1, "Approach for Corporate and Mission Network Management Operations Backup," and Scenario 2, "Approach for Corporate and Mission Network Consolidation," which demonstrates a thorough understanding of both corporate and mission services, (5) the comprehensive approach to accomplishing the PWS 3.7, Mission Service Sustainment Engineering, requirements, and (6) the comprehensive, detailed approach for providing PWS 4.0, Center and Associated Component Facility Services, which demonstrates a clear understanding of the services to be delivered. These features significantly increase the likelihood of center satisfaction with NICS service delivery (mission and corporate); reduce the risk of service impacts; provide for an excellent project management approach; ensure that NICS services are implemented in a standard and cost effective manner; and ensure continued customer satisfaction.

**Under the Past Performance factor**, SAIC's proposal received a "Very High Level of Confidence." The proposal received two significant strengths, 13 strengths, no significant weaknesses, and no weaknesses. The significant strengths related to (1) performance of the Unified NASA Information Technology Services (UNITEs) contract and (2) performance of the Defense Information System Network (DISN) Global Solutions (DGS) contract. Based upon SAIC's performance record, there is a very high level of confidence that SAIC will successfully perform the NICS effort.

**Under the Cost factor**, SAIC's probable cost was the lowest of the three proposals. Cost adjustments were necessary, and the SEB determined the proposed cost was reasonable, complete, and ensured that all PWS requirements were reflected in the cost. After completing the probable cost adjustment, the SEB assigned SAIC a "High" cost confidence rating since the vast majority of the adjustments were considered minor. Based on this rating, the Government has a very high level of confidence that the probable cost correlates very closely to the actual costs that SAIC would incur to successfully implement its proposal.

### III. SELECTION DECISION

I determined that the findings presented by the SEB, as documented in the report, were reasonable and valid for purposes of making a selection decision. I then analyzed more closely the SEB's findings for the three evaluation factors listed in section M.3 of the RFP: Mission Suitability, Past Performance, and Cost. The RFP specified the relative order of importance of the factors as follows: "Mission Suitability, Past Performance and Cost are considered to be essentially equal to each other. Therefore, all evaluation factors other than cost, when combined, are significantly more important than cost." The RFP also stated that award would be made using a best value approach, as described in FAR 15.101-1.

The SEB presented its evaluation findings for each proposal to me and we thoroughly discussed all findings. The findings developed by the SEB were detailed, consistent with the evaluation criteria in the RFP, and provided clear descriptions of the merits of each proposal. I questioned the SEB with regard to its rationale for the findings, the adjectival ratings, and point scores under the Mission Suitability subfactors. I also probed the SEB to ensure that I understood how all weaknesses and significant weaknesses had been addressed in the final proposal revisions. Further, I solicited the views of my ex-officio advisors in their areas of expertise. Finally, I carefully considered the findings in relation to the evaluation criteria in the RFP, and exercised my independent judgment regarding the significance of the findings as discriminators between proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria.

The SEB's evaluation of proposals under the Mission Suitability factor resulted in an overall score of 958 for SAIC's proposal, 867 for CSC's proposal, and 798 for L-3's proposal. All three proposals had numerous significant strengths and strengths.

Comparing the proposals under the Management/Operations and Staffing Approach subfactor, SAIC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent," resulting from the merit of its 16 significant strengths and 24 strengths. CSC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Very Good," resulting from the merit of its 11 significant strengths and 22 strengths. L-3's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Very Good," resulting from the merit of its 10 significant strengths and 21 strengths. As a result of my detailed review, I concluded that the ratings and scores assigned to each of the proposals under this subfactor were an accurate reflection of the SEB's underlying findings. While all three proposals provided very strong key personnel teams, received significant strengths for the approach to contract phase-in, and received significant strengths for the approach to I3P integration and quality, I noted that SAIC's proposal distinguished itself over the other two proposals in several areas. Specifically, SAIC's proposal received significant strengths for the organizational structure and general management approach, for logistics and facilities management (i.e., the proposed NICS Asset Life Cycle framework), and for the transition approach. These attributes significantly increase the likelihood of successful transition and delivery of enterprise services and accomplishment of I3P transformational goals; greatly increase the likelihood of achieving the transformational goals of an integrated communications

infrastructure while balancing the needs of the individual centers, and ensure proper handling of all logistics services on NICS.

Comparing the proposals under the Safety, Health, and Environmental (SHE) Approach subfactor, CSC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent" resulting from one significant strength and one strength. SAIC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent" resulting from one significant strength and one strength. L-3's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent" resulting from one significant strength and one strength. As a result of my detailed review, while I concluded that the respective findings accurately reflected the relative standing of the proposals, I found no distinguishing features or discriminators upon which to base a selection under this subfactor.

Comparing the proposals under the Small Business Utilization subfactor, L-3's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent" resulting from three significant strengths and three strengths. SAIC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent" resulting from two significant strengths and three strengths. CSC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent" resulting from two significant strengths and three strengths. As a result of my detailed review, while I concluded that the respective findings accurately reflected the relative standing of the proposals, again, I found no distinguishing features or discriminators upon which to base a selection under this subfactor.

Comparing the proposals under the Technical Approach subfactor, SAIC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Excellent," resulting from the merit of its six significant strengths and 16 strengths. CSC's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Very Good," resulting from the merit of its three significant strengths and 15 strengths. L-3's proposal received an adjectival rating of "Very Good," resulting from the merit of its two significant strengths and 11 strengths. As a result of my detailed review, I concluded that the ratings and scores assigned to each of the proposals under this subfactor were an accurate reflection of the SEB's underlying findings. Specifically, SAIC's proposal distinguished itself over the other two proposals in the area of mission service sustainment/engineering (i.e., PWS 3.7, Mission Service Sustainment Engineering). In addition, SAIC's proposal distinguished itself over CSC's proposal in the areas of enterprise support services (i.e., the approach for PWS 3.9, Customer Relationship Management) and infrastructure projects (i.e., the excellent understanding of NPR 7120.7 project planning principles). Further, SAIC's proposal distinguished itself over L-3's proposal in the areas of corporate service sustainment and engineering, center and associated component facility services, and infrastructure projects potential IDIQ scenarios (i.e., Scenarios 1 and 2). These features significantly increase the likelihood of center satisfaction with NICS service delivery (mission and corporate); reduce the risk of service impacts; provide for an excellent project management approach; ensure that NICS services are implemented in a standard and cost effective manner, and ensure continued customer satisfaction.

Based on the above, I concluded that SAIC's proposal had a clear advantage over the other two proposals under the Mission Suitability factor.

The SEB's evaluation of Past Performance resulted in the assessment of a "High Level of Confidence" for all three offerors. I noted that CSC received two significant strengths and 12 strengths. The significant strengths related to performance of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Motorola Information Technology Services contracts, both of which were considered very highly relevant to the NICS contract. I also noted that SAIC received two significant strengths and 13 strengths. The significant strengths related to performance of the Unified NASA Information Technology Services (UNITEs) and Defense Information System Network (DISN) Global Solutions (DGS) contracts, both of which were considered very highly relevant to NICS. Further, I noted that L-3 received one significant strength and eight strengths. The significant strength related to performance of the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Enterprise Information Technology Contract (EITC) which was considered very highly relevant to NICS.

Past performance is important to assess risk and to determine how well the offeror is likely to perform on the contract. While I noted that both CSC and SAIC had two significant strengths compared to L-3's one significant strength, all three offerors demonstrated successful performance history on contracts similar to NICS and received an assessment of "Very High Level of Confidence." I therefore concluded that there were not any discriminators among the offerors under the Past Performance factor.

In accordance with the terms of the RFP, the probable cost associated with a proposal included the use of the proposed G&A ceiling rate, any necessary cost adjustments, and the cost of a Government-calculated IDIQ model. I questioned the SEB carefully in order to understand why cost adjustments to the proposed costs were considered necessary and I agreed with the adjustments that were made.

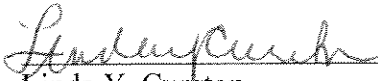
CSC's proposal had the highest probable cost of the three proposals. As a result of the cost evaluation, cost adjustments were necessary. The SEB assessed a "High" level of confidence in this probable cost and I agreed with this assessment.

L-3's proposal had the second highest probable cost. As a result of the cost evaluation, cost adjustments were necessary. The SEB assessed a "High" level of confidence in this probable cost and I agreed with this assessment.

SAIC's proposal had the lowest probable cost of the three proposals. As a result of the cost evaluation, cost adjustments were necessary. The SEB assessed a "High" level of confidence in this probable cost and I agreed with this assessment.

Thus, based on the analysis provided by the SEB, I noted that SAIC had the lowest overall cost (both proposed and probable) and that the SEB had assigned a "High" level of cost confidence. I concurred in this assessment.

As stated in the RFP, the Government is seeking the best value proposal for the NICS contract, with the Mission Suitability, Past Performance, and Cost factors being essentially equal in importance. In terms of Mission Suitability, SAIC provided a proposal of exceptional merit, receiving the highest overall score of all three proposals. Further, the SEB's underlying significant strength findings and adjectival ratings fully support this high score. Notably, SAIC's proposal was the only proposal to receive an "Excellent" rating under all four of the Mission Suitability subfactors. Further, SAIC received a "Very High Level of Confidence" in the Past Performance factor, the highest rating possible under this factor. Finally, I noted that SAIC's proposal had the lowest overall probable cost with a "High" level of cost confidence. Based on the above, a best value tradeoff analysis is not required since SAIC's proposal offered both the highest Mission Suitability score (along with the highest adjectival ratings across all four subfactors, all supported by the underlying findings) and the lowest overall probable cost, with Past Performance receiving the highest possible rating. Therefore, I select SAIC for award of the NICS contract.

  
Linda Y. Cureton  
Chief Information Officer  
Source Selection Authority

3/24/11  
Date